The University of Kansas held a state recognition program last Sunday, June 1 at the Lied Center for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top 5 percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors.

Among those students recognized as Duke TIP recipients were Cody Nieman, son of Chuck and Bobbi Nieman, Hanover, and Colin White, son of Steve and Janet White, Bremen. Other recipients include Konner Cue and Jakob Smith, Marysville.
Duke University recognizes area youth for outstanding abilities

Lawson C. Fiss of Hugoton and Kori Hall of Moscow were among the 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program. The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program Sunday, June 1, at the Lied Center.

Carrie Royce Waite, a KU senior majoring in theatre from Falmouth, Maine, hosted. Simran Sethi, the Lacy C. Haynes visiting professional chair in journalism, delivered a special address to the students and their families and guests. Julie Bennington, seventh-grade talent search coordinator for Duke TIP, presented the awards.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top five percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 35 ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. Of more than 74,000 applicants this year, 21,115 students qualified and have been invited to state recognition events, including 876 students being recognized at KU.

The Duke program is in its twenty-eighth year, and this is the tenth year KU has hosted the Kansas recognition program. In addition to Kansans, additional students taking part in the activities are Missouri residents from the Kansas City metropolitan area or towns near the Kansas-Missouri state line. Information tables to answer students’ and parents’ questions about various KU programs and activities will be available in the Lied Center lobby during the recognition event.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth. Since 1980, more than 1.5 million students have taken part in the program that is supported by student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

This article was submitted by the University of Kansas Media Relations.
Three locals earn Duke TIP recognition

The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at the Lied Center for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Area students chosen for the program were: Larissa A. Liggett, Kyle A. Breneman, and Taylor D. Workman.

Carter Royce Waite, a KU senior majoring in theater from Falmouth, Maine, was the host. Simran Sethi, the Lacy C. Haynes visiting professional chair in journalism, delivered a special address to the students and their families and guests. Julie Bennington, seventh-grade talent search coordinator for Duke TIP, presented the awards.

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The Duke program is in its 28th year, and this is the 10th year KU has hosted the Kansas recognition program. In addition to Kansans, additional students taking part in the activities are Missouri residents from the Kansas City metropolitan area or towns near the Kansas-Missouri state line. Information tables to answer students' and parents' questions about various KU programs and activities will be available in the Lied Center lobby during the recognition event.

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Selected to Sunflower Girls State

Lynne Thrun of Sylvan Grove, Kansas has been chosen by Unit #359 of Sylvan Grove to attend the 66th annual session of Sunflower Girls State on the University of Kansas Lawrence campus. Sunflower Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, June 1st through, 6th 2008. Miss Lynne Thrun is the daughter of Don and Terri Thrun.

Joining approximately 465 other young women who have just completed their Junior year of high school Miss Thrun will "Learn by Doing" the political system involved in the government of Kansas.

Beginning at the city level, advancing to county and the state, the girls will register to vote, file nomination papers, conduct political campaigns, and prepare and present speeches.

Helen Bolton, Manhattan, is the 2007 Governor of Sunflower Girls State and will preside at the sessions. Rachel Van Horn, Lawrence, is the 2007 Lt. Governor, will be assisting. The girls are housed in Ellsworth Hall and the Inauguration will be held in the Lied Performing Arts Center.

During the week, speakers on government at the various levels will share their expertise with the girls. They will have the opportunity to ask questions about these individuals' responsibilities in government. Speakers will include: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of Kansas; Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State; Mrs. LaVeta Miller, Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary; and other state, county and city officials.

Mrs. Anne Werner, Axtell, is the 2008 Director of Sunflower Girls State and Mrs. Jeanne Hans, New Strawn, will serve as Assistant Director. A staff of 60 American Legion Auxiliary members and former Girls Staters volunteer in service to this program.
Area students named Kansas Honor scholars

Students from 11 Kansas high schools were honored Thursday, April 10, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment. A total of 35 seniors from high schools in Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips and Smith counties were recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a dinner program in the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza Community Room, 110 W. Main St., Logan.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student received an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Those recognized from the immediate area were: Christy Stones, Eastern Heights High School; Jake Wyrill, Eastern Heights High School; Shelley Kemper, Logan High School; Zachary Long, Logan High School; Leandra Sparks, Logan High School; Stephanie Tubbs,
Johnson Co. to vote on tax for KU research

In a 6-1 vote yesterday, Johnson County officials decided to place a proposed sales tax increase that would go to research at KU on a ballot for a public vote. The increase would entail a one-eighth-of-a-cent increase in sales tax across the board. The tax would bring in approximately $15 million in revenue the first year and would increase slightly in the following years. Though there is no outspoken opposition to the bill, it is expected to face a tough time on the ballot with the current economic perception and gas prices.
Daryl Bugner graduated from the University of Kansas Dec. 8, 2007. An official ceremony for fine arts graduates was May 17 at the Lied Center, Lawrence.

She received a bachelor of fine arts in visual communications degree with a concentration in graphic design. She had a 3.5 grade point average.

She is the daughter of Don and Deb Bugner, Ottawa.

She graduated from Ottawa High School in 2003.

She lives at Kansas City, Mo., and works as a graphic designer for Sunflower Broadband and the Lawrence Journal-World.
JoCo seeks tax increase to fund research triangle

OLATHE (AP) — Johnson County voters will be asked to approve a sales tax increase to finance projects designed to enhance the Kansas City area’s efforts to become a leader in life sciences.

The Johnson County Commission voted Thursday to put an eighth-cent sales tax on the November ballot. If approved it would raise an estimated $15 million every year.

The tax would last forever. It would leverage state and federal dollars into a $1.4 billion economic boost in Johnson County in the next two decades, according to the County Economic Research Institute.

Revenue from the tax would be divided among three campuses in the Johnson County Education Research Triangle:

- The University of Kansas Edwards Campus in south Overland Park, where the university would build a 75,000-square-foot Business, Engineering and Technology Center. The center would offer 10 new degree programs and add 1,000 students a year.
- The KU Clinical Research Center in the Fairway Office Park, which would help the university’s efforts to become a national cancer center.
- Kansas State University’s Olathe Innovation Campus, where the first initiative would be a National Food and Animal Health Institute.

The commission approved the ballot measure 6-1, although some expressed concern that the tax would not expire and wondered why local taxpayers should provide what was once a state responsibility.

Commissioner John Toplikar voted against the proposal. The name of this reminds me of the Bermuda Triangle, where maybe the public’s money going in will never be seen again, although we can expect those who begin their projects with the public’s money will surely be back for more,” Toplikar said in a prepared statement. “True economic development doesn’t need a tax to support it.”

Bonds would be issued to build the new facilities and the tax revenue would help pay off those bonds. University officials said they would also raise private money for the buildings, and once the buildings are completed, they expect research dollars to support the programs.

Supporters of the research triangle acknowledged that it might be harder to get approval in current difficult economic times.
Local students recognized in Duke Talent Identification Program

The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program on Sunday, June 1, at the Lied Center for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

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Area students that were recognized included: Andrew Llewellyn, Aaron Messerla and John Seaton, Manhattan; Douglas Apley, Olsburg; Levi Bailey and Danielle Crowell, Riley.
COPELAND COMPLETES CERTIFICATION IN SERVICE LEARNING

The Center for Service Learning at the University of Kansas has recognized 227 students in 53 disciplines for completing certification in service learning during the 2007-08 school year.

Students were recognized in a ceremony held May 8 in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union.

The certification process consists of four components: completion of a service learning course; an independent service project; a set of directed civic engagement and leadership readings; and a reflection. All undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for certification.

Among the students recognized was Elizabeth A. Copeland, Riley, daughter of Jay and Vonda Copeland.